

# Safety and health alert

# 24/95 Injuries associated with use of mobile phones

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## Incident

During the last twelve months several accidents have occurred as a result of persons attending to mobile telephones in the workplace.

The most recent incident investigated by the Department involved a construction worker in the vicinity of a cantilever hoist at Northbridge when a slack rope condition occurred and the rope coiled tightly around the worker causing severe lacerations and bruising.

In each case the person was carrying out their duties in or near dangerous plant or in a precarious position when they have been distracted by their mobile telephone.

As a result they have exposed themselves to a hazard which in each case resulted in them being seriously injured.

## Factors

Persons have been distracted while attending to a potentially hazardous task, or working in a precarious situation, ie at a height or in a noisy area.

## Recommendations

Persons working in a potentially hazardous area, or carrying out a potentially hazardous task, should consider turning off their mobile telephones while carrying out these duties or move to a safe area before answering the telephone.

## Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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